



Sanctity of Life

New Village Family's Journey in Adoption

One of the books I have repeatedly consulted again and again is John Piper's book, *Future Grace*. Piper urges his readers to prize God's promises in order to break the power various sins in our lives. One of the chapters I read every so often is Chapter Three: Faith in *Future Grace* vs. Anxiety. By using Matt. 6:25ff Piper points out that anxiety is "...the failure to trust all that God has promised to be for us in Jesus." (p. 54) As I approach a new year filled with so many unknowns, I am re-arming myself with God's promises to fight against unbelief. My goal is to direct my thought life to meditating on God's assurances of future grace. If you share my sin struggle of worry/anxiety, here are some "fighter verses" to count on when our faith is weak and our hearts lose sight of God's sufficient grace:

Stressful situations: *"Fear not, I am with you, be not dismayed for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My victorious right hand."* (Is. 41:10)

Times when I feel too weak to do my work: *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."* (II Cor. 12:9)

Nervous about making decisions: *"I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you."* (Psalm 32:8)

Overly concerned about getting old: *"Even to your old age, I shall be the same, and even to your graying years, I shall bear you."* (Isaiah 46:4)

Pastor Mark Musser.

Not every spouse reaches the point of desire for adopting at the same time. As for me, Lyrae, I have always wanted to adopt since before we married. Pat reached the desire and point of being ready well into our marriage.

The road to growing our family has been no easy task and certainly has been "the road less traveled." There were many years of trying to conceive with no success. Then after a couple years of researching, praying and talking with people on the various options to go about adopting, it was difficult to choose which path to take.

Our prayer became, Lord, if you want us to adopt, you will need to show us the road to take. I, Lyrae prayed even more specifically, basically telling the Lord one day on a long walk that if he wanted us to adopt, he would have to drop the baby from the sky. We increasingly found it all too difficult to make the choice on the best option; there seemed to be no good option. I felt like it was so unlikely to happen but said, Lord if you want us to adopt, you would have to make it as obvious as writing across the sky for us. Pat on the other hand, would always say, God can do anything!

A few months after praying that prayer, the Lord did basically that exact thing. We received a call about a young woman needing to give her baby up for adoption and asked if we were ready; she meant if we had all our paperwork in order with the courts and were certified to adopt. The answer was yes to both. Thirty-three days after we received the phone call, our son was born and on the 35th day he came home with his Mom and Dad (us).

instant and tell anyone to go for it. There is nothing more rewarding than giving life to a little one. Additionally, God gives to us when you surrender everything to Him and when you least expect it. It has happened over and over again in our lives, more than we can count. Our blessings from the Lord are countless. We are grateful to the Lord for our miracle. Our little boy is a true joy and blessing! God has truly taught us how children are a blessing from the Lord; being open to whatever the Lord wants is the key.

Pat & Lyrae Nieto

In a January 13, 1984 proclamation, President Ronald Reagan designated January 22, 1984 as the first National Sanctity of Human Life Day. The date was chosen to coincide with the 11th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision.

Reagan issued the proclamation annually thereafter, designating Sanctity of Human Life Day to be the third Sunday in January, which represents the closest Sunday to the original January 22 date.

Memory Verse for January 2014

II Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Nearly half of all pregnancies are unintended; about half of those - 1.2 million will end in abortion each year.



Ways to get involved with The Care Center

Prayer

The center depends on the prayers of our supporters! We are continually in need of prayer for our volunteers, staff, clients and their unborn children. Be sure to read our newsletter on our website to help you stay informed about our events, goals and visions as you pray.

Volunteer Opportunities

Client Advocate: Meet and work with clients teaching our Earn While You Learn video-based curriculum on topics related to pregnancy and parenting as well as Bible Studies and life skills training. All client advocate candidates are required to complete our Care Net training.

Office Help: Light filing, answering phones, organizing.

Housekeeping: Cleaning and maintenance of office facility.

Material Assistance Program: Sort and organize baby and maternity donations to prepare for distribution to clients.

Host a Baby Shower: Hold a baby shower at your church, business or organization to gather items to donate to our Center.

Church Liaison: Serve as a point person at your church or organization for Care Center events. Share information with the pastor and congregation to encourage participation and financial support.

Abstinence Education: Join our team of Abstinence Educators and present sexual integrity training to youth groups.

Donate

It is donations from caring supporters like you that keep this ministry going day to day, year to year. God uses you to help us accomplish the goals and vision He has set before us. The gifts you give enable us to effectively reach the lives of women in need in our community. Every gift counts.

Ministry Needs

Diapers, Wipes, Travel size baby toiletry items (i.e. powder, shampoo, lotion) and new or gently used baby clothes (up to size 2T).

Editor's Note: The Care Center is a Crises Pregnancy Ministry in Islandia, NY that exists to support the sanctity of life. If you'd like to get involved in a practical manner in supporting this ministry, visit their website at www.carecenter.org.

Why I Hate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

(Editor's Note: The author has intended his title to get his readers to think. The author does support Sanctity of Life Sunday)

Don't get me wrong, the call to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ is a joy. Yesterday I pronounced a godly young couple husband and wife. This morning I baptized a brother in Christ. Nothing is more thrilling than opening the Word of God to the people of Christ week-by-week. But it provoked my spirit this morning to preach the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday emphasis this morning.

I don't hate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday because I think it, somehow, unbiblical. No, indeed. The entire canon throbs with God's commitment to the fatherless and to the widows, his wrath at the shedding of innocent blood. I don't hate it because I think it's inappropriate. Just as every Lord's Day should be Easter, with the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus, and Christmas, with the announcement of the Incarnation, so every Lord's Day should highlight the worth and dignity of human life.

I hate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday because I'm reminded that we have to say things to one another that human beings shouldn't have to say. Mothers shouldn't kill their children. Fathers shouldn't abandon their babies. No human life is worthless, regardless of skin color, age, disability, economic status. The very fact that these things must be proclaimed is a reminder of the horrors of this present darkness.

This morning as I opened the Bible to preach, I looked out and caught the eye of my sons. I prayed that their children wouldn't have to hear a sermon against abortion and euthanasia. I prayed that my grandchildren and great-grandchildren would grow up in an age when abortion is, as

the Feminists for Life organization put it some years ago, not just illegal but unthinkable. I prayed for my (yet to be conceived but not yet to be conceived of) great-grandchildren that a Sanctity of Human Life Sunday would seem as unnecessary to them as a Reality of Gravity Emphasis Sunday.

I hate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday because I'm reminded that as I'm preaching there are babies warmly nestled in wombs who won't be there tomorrow. I'm reminded that there are children, maybe even blocks from my pulpit, who'll be slapped, punched, and burned with cigarettes before nightfall. I'm reminded that there are elderly men and women languishing away in loneliness, their lives pronounced to be a waste.

But I also love Sanctity of Human Life Sunday when I think about the fact that I serve a congregation with ex-orphans all around, adopted into loving families. I love to reflect on the men and women who serve every week in pregnancy centers for women in crisis. And I love to see men and women who have aborted babies find their sins forgiven, even this sin, and their consciences cleansed by Christ.

We'll always need Christmas. We'll always need Easter. But I hope, please Lord, someday soon, that Sanctity of Human Life Day is unnecessary.

<http://www.russellmoore.com/2009/01/18/why-i-hate-sanctity-of-human-life-sunday/>

JANUARY 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	2	3 Ignite Youth Group	4 Men In The Morning
5 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M Worship Service @ 11 A.M	6 Missions Meeting	7 Fusion Youth Group	8 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	9	10 Ignite Youth Group	11
12 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M Worship Service @ 11 A.M	13	14 Fusion Youth Group	15 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	16	17 Ignite Youth Group	18 Men In The Morning
19 Sanctity of Life Sunday Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M Worship Service @ 11 A.M	20	21 Fusion Youth Group	22 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	23	24 Ignite Youth Group	25
26 Sunday School @ 9:45 A.M Worship Service @ 11 A.M	27	28 Fusion Youth Group	29 Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer	30	31 Ignite Youth Group	

Book Recommendations

Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches. Russell Moore. Crossway Publishers